

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 BANGKO 05126 01 OF 02 271311Z

43

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 CIAE-00

PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 SAJ-01 AID-05 IO-10 /066 W

----- 003960

O R 271039Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2040

INFO AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

AMEMBASSY SAIGON

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

AMCONSUL CHIANG MAI

AMCONSUL UDORN

13TH ADVON UDORN

USSAG NKP

DIA WASHDC

CINCPAC HONOLULU

UNCLAS SECTION 1 OF 2 BANGKOK 5126

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, MARR, TH, CB,

SUBJ: CHATCHAI ON U.S. FORCES AND SUPPORT FOR CAMBODIA

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

FOREIGN MINISTER CHATCHAI CHUNAWAN HELD A PRESS CONFERENCE  
MARCH 27. FOLLOWING IS AN UNOFFICIAL USIS TRANSLATION OF HIS  
REMARKS ON THE WITHDRAWAL OF U.S. FORCES IN THAILAND AND  
SUPPORT FOR CAMBODIA.

REPORTER: DEFENSE MINISTER PRAMAN TOLD US THAT THE  
HOLDING OF TALKS FOR THE WITHDRAWAL OF AMERICAN BASES HAS  
BEEN ENTRUSTED TO THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS. HAVE  
YOU STARTED MAKING ANY MOVES YET?

CHATCHAI: A START HAS BEEN MADE TODAY. I HAVE STARTED  
MAKING CONTACT FOR A MEETING.

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PAGE 02 BANGKO 05126 01 OF 02 271311Z

REPORTER: BETWEEN WHOM?

CHATCHAI: BETWEEN THE AMERICAN SIDE AND THE THAI SIDE.

REPORTER: HAS CONTACT BEEN MADE WITH THE EMBASSY?

CHATCHAI: CONTACT HAS BEEN MADE WITH THE EMBASSY. I SENT OFFICIALS TO MAKE CONTACT TODAY. THE NEXT STEP WILL BE TO FIX A DATE FOR MEETINGS TO BE STARTED. CONSIDERATION WILL BE PAID TO WITHDRAWALS BY REGULAR STAGES, SIMILAR TO MOVES MADE ALREADY LAST YEAR.

REPORTER: WILL THEY BE WITHDRAWN IN GROUPS, INCLUDING PLANES AND WEAPONS ALSO?

CHATCHAI: YES.

CHATCHAI: THERE IS WORK I MUST CONCENTRATE ON AT PRESENT --THE CAMBODIAN ISSUE IS A MAJOR ONE. THEREFORE I MUST SPEED UP AND GIVE PRIORITY TO WORK CONCERNING THIS ISSUE, WHICH IS OF GREAT IMPORTANCE.

REPORTER: WHAT MOVES WILL BE MADE?

CHATCHAI: SINCE CAMBODIA IS VERY NEAR THAILAND, I FEEL IT IS A VERY SENSITIVE ISSUE. IN REGARD TO MOVES WILL MAKE, WE HAVE RECALLED OUR AMBASSADOR TO COME AND REPORT IN PERSON ON THE SITUATION, BECAUSE WE WISH TO BE INFORMED OF THE TRUE SITUATION IN CAMBODIA. IT IS A NEIGHBORING COUNTRY WHICH IS VERY NEAR US -- WE HAVE A COMMON BORDER WHICH IS AS LONG AS 300 KILOMETERS -- THEREFORE ANY ACTION TAKEN, OR ANY DIPLOMATIC MOVE MADE, MUST BE WITH GREAT CARE. IN REGARD TO AID WE GIVE TO CAMBODIA, IT WILL BE AID FOR THE SAKE OF HUMANITY ONLY. WE CONSIDER THAT WHEN ANY NEIGHBORING COUNTRY SUFFERS HARDSHIP CAUSED BY LACK OF ESSENTIAL COMMODITIES, FOODSTUFFS, AND MEDICINES, WE MUST ENDEAVOR TO GIVE IT THAT FORM OF AID.

REPORTER: ARE WE MAKING PREPARATIONS TO GIVE AID IN ANY WAY YET?

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PAGE 03 BANGKO 05126 01 OF 02 271311Z

CHATCHAI: WE HAVE GIVEN AID IN THE PAST. FOR INSTANCE, WHEN IT ASKED TO BUY FOODSTUFFS, SUCH AS RICE AND SUGAR, WE HAVE GIVEN IT SOME AID IN THAT FORM ALREADY, INCLUDING MEDICINES ALSO. BUT WE HAVE NOT GIVEN IT AID IN OTHER FORMS AT ALL.

REPORTER: IN WHAT DIRECTION WILL THE CAMBODIAN ISSUE

BE ENDED?

CHATCHAI: MY VIEW, AS I HAVE TOLD YOU MANY TIMES, IS  
THAT IT OUGHT TO BE THE DUTY OF CAMBODIA ITSELF TO SOLVE  
ITS OWN PROBLEMS. THAILAND WOULD BE MOST HAPPY SHOULD  
CAMBODIA SOLVE ITS OWN PROBLEMS THROUGH PEACEFUL METHODS.  
SHOULD ALL CAMBODIAN FACTIONS WANT US TO GIVE HELP IN THE  
FORM OF PROVIDING A SITE FOR A MEETING IN ORDER TO RESTORE  
PEACE TO CAMBODIA, WE WOULD BE HAPPY TO GIVE SUCH AID.  
WE HAVE PROCLAIMED MANY TIMES ALREADY THAT THAILAND IS  
READY AND GLAD TO GIVE AID, SHOULD EVERY AND ALL FACTIONS  
IN CAMBODIA TURN TOWARD ONE ANOTHER, THEN HOLD NEGOTIATIONS

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PAGE 01 BANGKO 05126 02 OF 02 271251Z

43

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PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 SAJ-01 AID-05 IO-10 /066 W

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O R 271039Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2041

INFO AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

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UNCLAS SECTION 2 OF 2 BANGKOK 5126

BASED ON PEACEFUL METHODS.

REPORTER:COULD PEACEFUL NEGOTIATIONS BE HELD? BECAUSE  
FROM WHAT WE HAVE HEARD, SIHANOUK HAS PROCLAIMED DEFINITELY

THAT HE WILL NOT HOLD TALKS WITH ANYBODY.

CHATCHAI: WHETHER SUCESS IS ACHIEVED OR NOT DEPENDS  
ON EFFORTS MADE.

REPORTER: HAS CAMBODIA MADE ANY CONTACTS IN ANY WAY  
WITH OUR MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS NOW?

CHATCHAI CLOSE CONTACTS EXIST. OUR AMBASSADOR MEETS  
PREMIER LOG BORET CONSTANTLY. I MYSELF KNOW LONG BORET  
WELL, AND SHOULD THERE BE ANYTHING TO BE DISCUSSED, TALKS  
COULD BE HELD.  
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PAGE 02 BANGKO 05126 02 OF 02 271251Z

REPORTER: TURNING BACK TO THE SUBJECT OF THE WITHDRAWAL  
OF MILITARY FORCES ON WHICH CONTRACT HAS BEEN MADE FOR MET-  
INGS TO BE HELD, WHAT PRINCIPLES ARE THERE TO BE DISCUSSED?

CHATCHAI I HAVE STARTED MAKING CONTACT WITH THE AMERICAN  
EMBASSY TODAY. BECAUSE I TOOK OVER MY DUTIES ONLY A FEW  
DAYS AGO. THE PRINCIPLES TO BE FOLLOWED ARE SPECIFIED  
CLEARLY IN OUR STATMENT OF FOREIGN POLICY ALREADY.

REPORTER: WILL DATES FIXED WITHIN ONE YEAR BE FOR  
COMPLETE WITHDRAWALS?

CHATCHAI YES. AT THE SAME TIME. HOWEVER, CONSIDERA-  
TION MUST BE PAID TO THE SITUATION ALSO, NORTH VIETNAM  
HAS INVADED AS MANY AS 7 PROVINCES IN SOUTH VIETNAM NOW,  
AND DA NANG, WHICH IS A BIG BASE, IS BEING HEAVILY ATTACHKED.  
PLEASE STUDAY THE SITUATION IN GENERAL IT HAS NOT IMPROVED  
AT ALL, EITHER IN CAMBOIDA OR IN VIETNAM

REPORTER: NOW THAT WE ARE NOT ALLOWING AMERICAN TO TRANS-  
PORT WEAPONS FROM THAILAND TO HELP CAMBODIA..

CHATCHAI: IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PRINCIPLE OF THE  
THAI GOVERNMENT..

REPORTER: ... AN AMERICAN REPORT SAYS THAT WE HAVE  
NOT SENT A LETTER WITH A FORMAL REQUEST TO THE UNITED  
STATES YET.

CHATCHAI THAT QUESTION MUST BE PUT TO AMERICAN  
MASTERS

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